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25 August 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES
1993 substantive session
Agenda item 2 (e)*

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS: REQUESTS FOR EXCEPTIONS TO SECTION I, PARAGRAPH 7, OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 40/243

Note by the Secretariat

1. In section I, paragraph 7, of its resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, the General Assembly decided that "no subsidiary organ of the General Assembly may meet at United Nations Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly unless explicitly authorized by the Assembly".

2. Every year, a certain number of requests for exceptions to that rule are received. In accordance with established practice, those requests are first submitted to the Committee on Conferences, which then makes a recommendation to the General Assembly for the required authorization.

3. At its 1986 session, the Committee on Conferences reviewed the procedure by which it dealt with such requests and decided that in future the following procedure should be adopted: 1/

(a) Subsidiary organs of the General Assembly wishing to request explicit authorization from the General Assembly to meet at Headquarters during the session should write to the Chairman of the Committee on Conferences, except for unforeseen circumstances, before the substantive session of the Committee; the letter should be circulated to all members of the Committee, together with appropriate servicing information provided by the Secretariat;

(b) The request should contain the reason or reasons why the authorization was being requested and/or the reason or reasons why the organ concerned did not finish its work during the time allotted to it and in compliance with the 1 September deadline for the completion of reports of subsidiary organs of the Assembly laid down in its resolution 40/243, section I, paragraph 6;

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* A/AC.172/150/Add.1.

(c) The request should also explain why it was necessary to meet during the Assembly and should specify, to the extent possible, the number of meetings that would be required;

(d) In the event that approval was forthcoming, all such meetings would be allocated conference services on an "as available" basis from within existing resources in such a way that the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees was not impeded.

4. The annex to the present document contains requests received to date from subsidiary organs of the General Assembly to meet at Headquarters during the forty-eighth session of the Assembly, as well as the relevant statistical information.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 32 (A/41/32), para. 64.

Annex

I. REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS DURING THE FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

A. Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

Letter from the Secretary of the Executive Board

[Original: English]

[6 July 1993]

Thank you for your memorandum of 8 June 1993 confirming that the Committee on Conferences had approved a two-day special session of the Executive Board for 8-9 September 1993 on UNICEF headquarters accommodation.

Since that time, however, we have been informed by the secretariat of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Committee will review the budget of the United Nations in September 1993 rather than in August and that therefore the Committee will be unable to examine UNICEF's options on headquarters accommodation until that time. The ACABQ secretariat further informed us that it had advised the Director of the Office of Conference Services of this development and of the consequent necessity to postpone the Executive Board special session to a later date.

In light of the above, we very much hope that the Committee on Conferences will approve the convening of the special session on 6 and 7 October 1993.

B. Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter from the Secretary of the Committee

[Original: English]

[9 July 1993]

As you may know, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 47/35 of 25 November 1992, the Committee on Relations with the Host Country is requested to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (agenda item 148 of the preliminary list). Pursuant to its mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 2819 (XXVI) of 15 December 1971, the Committee meets periodically during the year or whenever the need arises, and as a rule has met during the regular sessions of the General Assembly in order to finalize its annual report and present it to the Assembly.

Bearing in mind the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly according to which subsidiary organs [that wish to meet] during the regular session of the Assembly shall be subject to the approval of the General Assembly, a request that the Committee on Relations with the Host Country be permitted to meet

during the forty-eighth session is herewith submitted. Having due regard to the nature of the work of the Committee and to previous experience, it would probably suffice to make the necessary conference facilities available for two or three meetings only.

The present request has the full support of the Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Andreas J. Jacovides of Cyprus.

C. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee

[Original: English]

[29 July 1993]

I have the honour to inform you that the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People will again need authorization to hold meetings during the forthcoming session of the General Assembly as necessary for carrying out its mandate.

As you are no doubt aware, in its resolution 47/64 A of 11 December 1992, the General Assembly requested the Committee "to continue to keep under review the situation relating to the question of Palestine as well as the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Achievement of Palestinian Rights and to report and make suggestions to the General Assembly or the Security Council, as appropriate".

As the Committee has no control over the timing of the events which it is called upon to discuss, it needs to meet throughout the year as circumstances dictate. On the basis of past experience, it is envisaged that the Committee would require facilities for approximately six meetings during the session. These would be in addition to the meeting to commemorate the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which is already included in the approved calendar for 1993.

It would be highly appreciated if the Committee on Conferences would agree to recommend to the General Assembly that it authorize the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to meet during the forty-eighth session.

D. Committee for Programme and Coordination

Letter from the Secretary of the Committee

[Original: English]

[30 July 1993]

I wish to refer to the decision taken by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its informal meeting held on 28 July 1993, whereby the Committee would hold the second part of its thirty-third session at Headquarters from 4 to 22 October, instead of 30 August to 17 September as previously planned.

As you will recall, the General Assembly, in its decision 47/458 of 23 December 1992, authorized the Committee to meet for one week in May and three weeks in August/September 1993.

The decision of the Committee to delay the second part of the session has been taken after a thorough review of the situation of the documentation, in particularly the timely issuance of the fascicles of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Consequently, the holding of that part of the session of the Committee will coincide with the session of the General Assembly.

I therefore have the honour, on behalf of the Chairman for the Committee for Programme and Coordination, to request you to seek the concurrence of the Committee on Conferences on the above.

E. Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Letter from the Secretary of the Working Group

[Original: English]

[3 August 1993]

In its resolution 47/69 B of 14 December 1992, regarding the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the General Assembly requested that the Working Group continue its efforts, in cooperation with the Secretary-General and the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, for the financing of the Agency for a future period of one year.

In order to meet this request, the Working Group needs the latest data with regard to the UNRWA budget, i.e., up-to-date information on the current budget and precise indications as to the needed revenue and the anticipated contributions for the next fiscal year. UNRWA has not been in a position that would enable the Agency to supply the Working Group with this timely information

any earlier than September 1993, and the Working Group cannot prepare its report to the forty-eighth session without this important material.

In view of the obligation of the Working Group to submit its up-to-date report not later than the first half of October for consideration by the Special Political Committee and the General Assembly, little time is available for the few meetings of the Working Group and for the preparation of its report.

It would be very much appreciated if you could draw to the attention of the Committee on Conferences the request of the Working Group that it be authorized to meet during the first weeks of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

F. Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations

Letter from the Secretary of the Committee

[Original: English]

[4 August 1993]

On behalf of the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, I am writing to inform you that the Committee would like to hold two meetings during the period of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

I am aware of the need to avoid meetings of subsidiary organs of the General Assembly at Headquarters during a regular session of the Assembly; however, it has become unavoidable because of the need to continue ongoing work and the relative shortness of time in which the commemoration has to be organized.

We should be most obliged if you could take the necessary measures to obtain the approval of the Committee on Conferences and of the General Assembly for holding these two meetings.

G. Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee

[Original: English]

[11 August 1993]

It would be appreciated if you would authorize a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa in the week beginning 11 October 1993, but preferably on 12 October 1993, so that the Committee may approve its annual report to the General Assembly.

The Advisory Committee is fully aware of the limited availability of conference services during sessions of the General Assembly. However, in view of the fact that the cut-off date for statistics on the Programme is 31 August 1993, it is not possible to consider the report any earlier than the dates indicated above. We therefore trust that the Committee on Conferences will give favourable consideration to this request.

H. Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee

[Original: English]

[11 August 1993]

It would be appreciated if you would authorize a meeting of the Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa in the week beginning 20 September 1993, but preferably on 24 September 1993, so that the Committee may approve its annual report to the General Assembly.

It should be noted that this report cannot be ready for consideration any earlier, as the cut-off date for financial information to be included in it is 31 August 1993.

Moreover, subject to payment of outstanding pledges to the Trust Fund, the Committee of Trustees would also use this meeting to consider supplementary grants to organizations providing legal and humanitarian assistance to victims of apartheid in South Africa.

The Committee of Trustees is fully aware of the limited availability of conference services during sessions of the General Assembly. For the reasons explained above, however, the Committee hopes that you will give favourable consideration to its request.

I. Special Committee against Apartheid

Letter from the Chairman of the Committee

[Original: English]

[12 August 1993]

On behalf of the Special Committee against Apartheid, and in accordance with paragraph 34 of General Assembly decision 34/401 of 12 December 1979, I would like to request authorization for the Special Committee to hold a number of meetings during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly. This request is necessitated by developments influencing the process of negotiation for a new, non-racial and democratic South Africa. It is expected that the Transitional Executive Council will be established and other major steps be taken in the next two months, which will have a major impact on the conclusions

and recommendations of the report of the Special Committee. Furthermore, there is a need for the Special Committee to meet in order to carry on with its programme of work.

I should therefore highly appreciate if you could bring this request to the attention of the Committee on Conferences and thereby to the General Assembly.

J. Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa

Letter from the Chairman of the Group

[Original: English]

[13 August 1993]

I am writing on behalf of the Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa to request your Committee to allow the Group to meet during the General Assembly.

The Intergovernmental Group investigates cases of suspected deliveries of oil and petroleum products to South Africa. Our main source of information is the Shipping Research Bureau (a non-governmental organization), which is now facing financial difficulties and has cut its staff. We need time to process the information which was made available to us only this month and do not expect to be in a position to communicate this information to Governments before the end of August. Normally, the Group makes an allowance of at least two months to enable Governments to respond before reaching a decision on how to reflect their views in the report. Therefore, we do not expect to finalize the report before the end of October.

In order to adopt the report, we need to meet in a formal session which will last less than one hour. I sincerely hope that your Committee will approve our request.

II. STATISTICAL INFORMATION

The following statistics refer to meetings with interpretation held during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly by the bodies listed above. The number of meetings planned by subsidiary organs during the regular session is not included because such meetings are approved only on an ad hoc basis and on the understanding that services are provided only as and when they are not required for meetings of the Assembly and its Main Committees.

	Number of meetings held	Hours and minutes lost Late starting	Early ending	Total hours and minutes lost
Committee on Relations with the Host Country	3	0.55	5.20	6.15
Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People	6	2.20	4.10	6.30
Committee of Trustees of the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa	1	0.05	0.25	0.30
Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa	1	0.15	1.40	1.55
Special Committee against Apartheid	2	0.40	1.45	2.25
Intergovernmental Group to Monitor the Supply and Shipping of Oil and Petroleum Products to South Africa	-	-	-	-
Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations	3	1.00	1.20	2.20
Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	1	0.20	2.20	2.40
Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund	-	-	-	-
Committee for Programme and Coordination	6	0.30	0.05	0.35